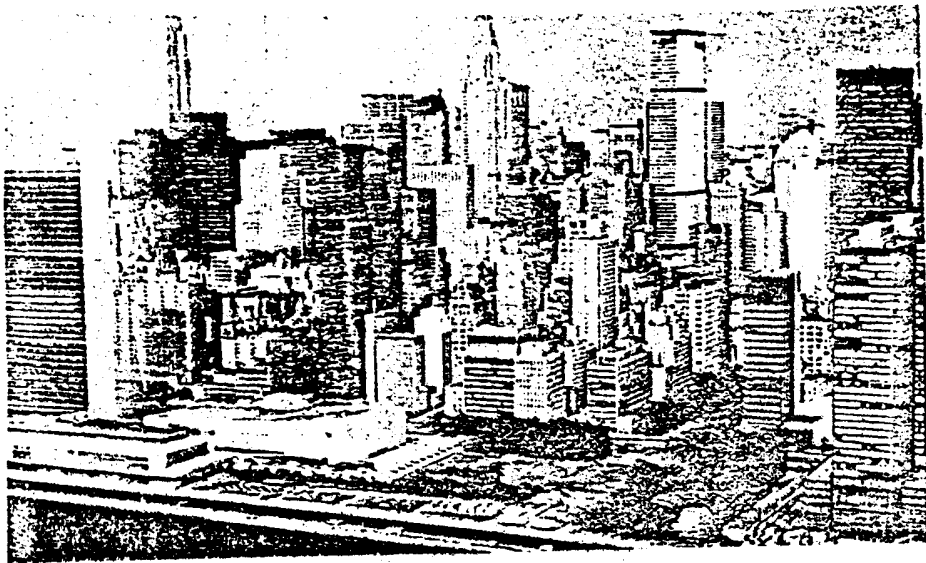


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New York City: Hotbed of Soviet Spies

Espionage agents disguised as diplomats pour into New York so fast they outnumber the FBI. A favorite nesting place: The United Nations.

NEW YORK

Spying by the Soviet Union and its satellites is spreading rapidly throughout the United States—but especially here in this city. The Communists have turned New York into the spy capital of the world.

Alarmed by the surge in espionage activity, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has beefed up its counterintelligence staff in New York, which now is believed to number several hundred. Still, it cannot keep up with the rising number of Communist agents.

Atty. Gen. William French Smith warned in a speech on December 18: "Over the last dozen years, the number of official representatives of governments with hostile intelligence activities in our country has increased by 400 percent."

FBI Director William H. Webster has joined in sounding a warning, reporting that 35 percent of so-called diplomats from unfriendly nations are actually professional spies. On an ABC News telecast January 3, Webster said there has been "a rather extensive increase" recently in the number of "foreign intelligence-trained individuals here.

in the United States, Webster's 35 percent spy rate would mean a total of more than 1,000 diplomat spies—each of whom could be supervising several agents.

Why is New York such a magnet for spies? For one thing, the city is headquarters of the United Nations, a gold mine of information where diplomats from all over the world are stationed. Hundreds of them are known to be full-time intelligence agents; many others double as part-time spies.

Another reason for New York's popularity as a spy base is that many of Communism's prime targets for espionage are located here or close by. Besides the U.N. itself, the city houses headquarters of some of America's largest corporations and financial institutions. Their employees can—and often do—provide the Soviets with valuable information.

High tech. Communist agents also are lured by the presence in the New York area of many aerospace and computer companies, producers of advanced technology that Moscow badly needs but cannot make itself.

The number of Communist officials in the U.S. is expanding so rapidly that Attorney General Smith said: "At one time, the FBI could match suspected hostile intelligence agents in the United States on a one-to-one basis. Now, the number of hostile agents has grown so much that our FBI counterintelligence

U.N. headquarters, left, helps make New York City a center of espionage.

ber of foreign diplomats and members of their families stationed here has increased by 13,000 in the last five years to a new total of 35,000.

Russians are not only the most active in spying here, but also the most numerous. More than 700 Russians work in the Soviet mission at the U.N., in the U.N. secretariat or in Russia's various civilian agencies such as the Amtorg Trading Company, the Aeroflot airline and Tass news agency. About 35 percent—or more than 200—of those Russians are considered by Western intelligence agencies to be active spies.

Copy fever? There are 168 Soviet citizens on the U.N. secretariat staff alone. A European familiar with their operations was only half joking when he said: "A third of the Russian contingent there is actually doing U.N. work. The rest run around photocopying everything they can lay their hands on."

Besides the Russians, New York is home base for hundreds of spies representing Cuba, Vietnam and the Communist countries of Eastern Europe. They all cooperate and share secrets with the Soviet Union.

As for China: Says FBI Agent Donald J. McGorty: "I have no doubt the Chinese are planting the seeds of a future espionage operation, maybe by cultivating young college kids, but that is 30 years down the road. The Chinese are a concern of ours, but not in the classical espionage sense. They aren't meeting in alleys and passing microfilm."

Soviet agents here operate under the direction of Vladimir Kazakov, 49, local chief of the Kremlin's secret police and intelligence agency, the KGB. Kazakov's cover title is deputy permanent representative to the U.N. under Ambassador Oleg Troyanovsky.

Russia's top spy in the U.S., Dmitri I. Yakushkin, also has a diplomatic cover—as counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Washington. He is reported planning to return to Moscow soon, after a six-year Washington assignment.

The Russian spies in New York work from the Soviet U.N. mission in midtown Manhattan—just across the street from the 19th Precinct police station—and from a recently completed apartment house in the Riverdale section of the Bronx that houses Soviet personnel and their families.

The roof of that apartment building bristles with antennas for sophisticated